

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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FM USMISSION NATO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3382
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C O N F I D E N T I A L NATO 02672

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: MPOL, NATO
SUBJECT: COMMENTS ON DRAFT UNCLASSIFIED VERSION OF MINIS-
TERIAL GUIDANCE 1977

REF: (A) USNATO 2565 (DTG 301700Z APR 77), (B) USNATO
2373 (DTG 231215Z APR 77), (C) USNATO 2546 (DTG 291700Z
APR 77), (D) USNATO 2563 (DTG 301119Z APR 77)

1. THE DEFENSE REVIEW COMMITTEE (DRC) WILL ADDRESS THE
DRAFT UNCLASSIFIED VERSION OF MINISTERIAL GUIDANCE, 1977
(REF A) ON MAY 6. WITH THE EXCEPTION OF PARA 18 (MARI-
TIME), THE DRAFT IS AN ACCURATE CONDENSATION OF THE CLAS-
SIFIED TEXT (REFS B AND C) FORWARDED TO MINISTERS. IT
THUS RETAINS THE RESOURCE GUIDANCE (PARA 29) IN BRACKETS
PENDING MINISTERIAL DECISION.

2. THE MARITIME PARA, HOWEVER, NEITHER REFLECTS AC-
CURATELY THE CLASSIFIED TEXT (PARAS 25-26) NOR MAKES A
STRONG CASE FOR MARITIME IMPROVEMENTS. IN ADDITION,
PARA 2 (EAST-WEST NEGOTIATIONS) OVERLAPS WITH PARA 5 OF
THE DRAFT DPC MINISTERIAL COMMUNIQUE (REF C).

3. DURING MAY 6 DRC DISCUSSION, WE PROPOSE, THEREFORE,
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TO RECOMMEND THE DELETION OF PARA 2 AND TO SUGGEST THAT
PARA 18 BE REFORMULATED AS FOLLOWS:

- "NATO'S MARITIME FORCES STILL HAVE THE ABILITY TO
PROTECT THE SEALANES FOR THE TIMELY REINFORCEMENT AND
RESUPPLY OF EUROPE; HOWEVER, IN VIEW OF THE CONTINUING
BUILDUP AND MODERNIZATION OF THE SOVIET NAVY, THEY CAN

NO LONGER CARRY OUT ALL THE TASKS DICTATED BY THEIR MISSION SIMULTANEOUSLY. IF THE ALLIANCE IS TO MAINTAIN THE ABILITY TO COPE WITH THE EMERGING THREAT AT SEA, IT IS IMPERATIVE THAT THE RATE OF IMPROVEMENT OF NATO'S MARITIME FORCES BE INCREASED."

3. ACTION REQUESTED: WASHINGTON CONCURRENCE IN OUR PROPOSED APPROACH BY OPENING OF BUSINESS, MAY 6. BENNETT

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